Overlooking Puget Sound

Apr 28, 1956

Jn.1:46 And Nathanael said unto him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Phillip saith unto him, "Come and see."

The story familiar to all. Phillip had found the Messiah, and with heart bursting with joy rushed to his friend whom he found under fig tree meditating. "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did writs, Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph."

But the word, Nazareth, staggered Nathanael. He was familiar with Moses' writings and those of the prophets but he knew of no mention of Nazareth in connection with the coming of the Messiah. Besides what was Nazareth? Hence, in the full consciousness of his own wisdom and with an air of contempt, he asks the question, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Back of Nathanael's question we see his prejudice. He had been trained by the rabbis and under their guidance had formed his conception of the Messiah. That conception was not the one presented to us in Isaiah 53 of the sufferingservant, but that of a prince and king clothed in purple. And so when Phillip came to him all of his preconceived opinions rose up against the announcement. To him it simply was impossible.

Many disastrous consequences have resulted from prejudice
The path of progress strewn with obstructions and wreckage
In the realm of art
Richard Arkwright 1732-1792 at Preston and Nottingham with his spinning-frame. His mills burned down.
1781-1848 George Stevenson laughed to scorn when he spoke of his steam engine that would cover the ground more quickly than stage coaches.
In the realm of science.
Galileo's announcement that the ~~sun~~ earth traveled around the sun s the church flung him in prison and tried to make him recant.
Roger Bacon thrown in prison for ten years because of his announced discoveries in chemistry and physics.
When Darwin announced his theory of evolution vthe whole religious world up in arms.

In the realm of theo logy.
The treatment of the early Methodists.
The Salvationists in the 19th century
Most heresy hunts are the result of blind prejudice

Prejucide has done its mo$t deadly work by keeping hundreds and thousands from accepting Christ.

Christ rejected in his own da/ because of prejudice. "He came unto his own and ĵis own knew him not"

"How often", sai d Jesus¢"would I have gathered your children together as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, but ye would not."

The Jewish leaders could find no fault with Jesus, they admitted he spoke wisely and did good, but he did mot fulfill their expectations of what the Messiah shoul be and consequently they rejected him and crucified him. It was prejudice that cried out,"Crucify him!" It was prejudice that called,"Not this man but Barabbas." It was prejudice that naiJed Jesus to a tree.

And this prejudice still leads men to reject the Christ.

John Bunyon, in his "THE HOLY WAR" pictures the soul as a walled city having five gates- Ear-gate, Eye-gate, Nose-gate, Mouth-gate, and Feel-gate. When Prince Immanuel comes to capture the city of Mansoul they first direct their attack upon the Ear-gate. But old Diabolus has stationed there,"one old Mr.Prejudice, an angry and ill-conditioned fellow, and put under his power sixty men called deaf men- men advantageous for that service, forasmuch as they mattered no words of the captains nor of the soldiers." In plain English, Bunyan declared that men's ears are closed against Christ's appeals.

Over 1900 yrs ago Jesus exclaimed,"Ye would not come unto me that ye might have life." Old Mr.Prejudice in those days, with his 60 deaf men, defended Ear-gate so well that Christ's own people rejected him. And at this very day Prejudice is causing tens of thousands to reject the Christ. Back of practically all indifference to Christ, of all repudiation of him, are preconcieved notions and false conceptions.

1. Some are prejudiced against Christ because of the writings of sceptics. Ingersol's lectures. Upton Sinclair.

2. Some reject Christ because of the dogmas under which theologians have buried the real living Christ. The history of religious revolt shows the fight not to be against Christ directly, but against the theories and doctrines of men. Many reject Christ because they believe him to be connected with some"ism"

3. Again, many are prejudiced against Christ because of the inconsistencies of Christian people. Men judge Christ by his followers.

We have no right to complain of this. Every Xn is a representative of X. He is supposed to reproduce X's spirit and temper and life. And how many of us Xns are giving to the world a true picture of the Christ? It is hard to say, but it is true that today Christ is suffering because of your sins and mine. Men will none of him because of what they see in us. They see our indifference, our pride, our envy, our malice, our greed, our worldliness, and they say, "Is that your Xty? I will have none of it."

Men see us Xns in our weakness and sin and ask the question, Can Christ be living in such hearts and lives?" Just as Nathanael asked the question, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?".

Now for the answer of Phillip.

Phillip did'nt argue the matter. He did not attempt to prove that Nazareth was, afterall, not so insignificant a place as Nathanael thot it to be. He did'nt quote scripture to prove that the Christ was to come from Nazareth. Phillip was dealing with Mr. Prejudice who is an angry and ill-conditioned fellow. All Phillip asked of Nathanael was to "Come and see". He appealed to experience and first-hand experience at that. And when Nathanael did go to see you all know the esult, "thou art the Son of God, thou art King of Israel."

COME AND SEE is the best cure for prejudice.

The actual experience of the spinning-jenny dispelled all doubt concerning it. So with the locomotive.

Bring men face to face with Christ and their doubts will vanish away.

The case of the young man who approached the great preacher after the service. "I enjoyed your sermon bery much, but Christ is not to me what he is to you. I am especially set against your miraculous view of Jesus."

Directed to read the Gospel of John. Upon returning the young man reported, "I have enjoyed reading the gospel. Jesus was a remarkable man, but to my mind the miraculous element spoils everything." The great preacher was disappointed, and all he could say was," Will you read it again please?". After several weeks the young man returned, and the preacher could see by his very step that somthing had happened. He greeted the young man with, "Well, things are different?" "Yes", answered answer, "and I can scareely say

how; but as I read, a miracle happened to me, for I knew I was speaking to Christ and Christ was speaking to me. All my doubts and questionings fell away because of my new experience."

"Face to face! oh blissful moment!
Face to face- to see and know;
Face to face with my Redeemer,
Jesus Christ who loves me so."

Conclusion.

1. We Xns should be keeping ourselves face to face with Christ.
   Thru constant reading of the gospels which are his portrait to the world.
   Thru prayer and communion

2. We Xns should be inviting others to "Come and see"
   1. By urging them to read the Bible and see for themselves, who Jesus Christ is.
   2. By living the life of Christ ourselves so that others will not get a false representation of of Christ.